

JUNIOR BAZAAR

by Andre Emmerich

• On Monday nights in April Columbia men will tune in on their own CURC to hear a news roundup from Charles Campbell at the International Student Assembly. At Yale, WOLD will cover the weekly basketball games from a mike set up in the gym; at Union UCRS listeners will hear students quizzing professors; at Brown WBRU will put on an all-student variety show; the Harvard Glee Club will broadcast a program of their most requested numbers over WHCN; on fifteen other campuses the students will tune in on programs put on by students.

"This is the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System" is the signing off phrase for the campus broadcasts and IBS today is one of the fastest growing shoots in radio.

Within IBS the four stations around Philadelphia—Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, Haverford and the University of Pennsylvania—have formed the Middle Atlantic Network of IBS or Midat. When one station in the network has a specially good program the others are all brought in.

Swarthmore's WSRN is sometimes considered the most outstanding of the Midat stations. For years, WSRN "incubated" in an eight-foot square studio, with announcers, actors and engineers packed like sardines, and a transmission line guaranteed to break down once a week. Eventually, however, the station expanded till today it occupies two modern studios and a master control room full of modern equipment. Among its proud achievements WSRN lists its campaign to permit women to wear slacks and bluejeans in the face of vociferous opposition by the Women's Student Government Association. When the question was finally voted on by the student body, the overwhelming majority favored slacks!

The station that had to battle the greatest obstacles is WBMC at Bryn Mawr. They started with a D.C. power system on which no regular radio equipment will work; all their equipment had to be specially adapted—a doubly difficult matter for a girl's college that had no engineers on the campus and had to depend for help on Haverford's mechanical wizards. In addition, WBMC had little space, limping equipment and at first could be heard on only part of the campus. But the courage, persistence and infectious enthusiasm of the founders, especially of president Cam Williams, made everybody pitch in and finally brought the station on the air. Today, WBMC is a going concern. The technical difficulties continue but Cam Williams has become one of the few expert women radio engineers and WBMC no longer needs the help of the Haverford boys.

One of the college stations that is older than its present staff is Columbia and Barnard's CURC, The Voice of the Roaring Lion. Its records indicate that it was already going strong as a short-wave outfit way back around 1923. But in those days its existence was precarious, to say the least. A letter to the New York City College radio club dated January 1926 contains this hair-raising statement: "Due to an unfortunate series of circumstances culminating in the loss of our power supply and near disintegration of the club, we were unable to do our part (in forming an intercollegiate radio league)."

However, CURC has long since made up for its early failings and has become one of IBS' strongest stations. Among its

services are broadcasts of all the Columbia football games, even those as far away as New Haven, West Point and Philadelphia, as well as all home basketball games.

Run on a commercial but nonprofit basis, CURC has managed to save over two thousand dollars during the last two years from commercials, and plans to spend this relatively astronomical sum on technical improvements and a record library.

One of the best program schedules of any college station is maintained by WRAD, Radio Radcliffe. Five nights a week, Monday through Friday, it goes on the air at 7:30 PM with a program of swing and jazz. From 8 to 9 it appeases the classical music devotees with a program called "Concert Master," which on Tuesdays is devoted to the weekly listening requirements of the class in Music Appreciation. At 9 o'clock the "big" programs begin. Mondays it's "Listen" (which tells you what to listen for in serious music), on Tuesdays it varies from dramatic productions by the Idler Dramatic Club to interviews with campus personalities. Wednesdays the Harvard Radio Workshop broadcasts plays over both WRAD and Harvard's WHCN. Thursdays the hour is devoted to the knotty problem of labor relations and Fridays it consists of travelogues by students who have been to foreign countries.

In addition, WRAD carries a nightly program of campus news, one program of book reviews, and each night from 10 till 11 "Music to Read By"—a type of program commercial stations ought to adopt too.

Another interesting news program called "These Are the Little People" is heard over KTX, the station at Stephens College, Missouri. The station takes the day's biggest headline and dramatizes the effect of this news on the average citizen.

Originally KTX followed the Balkan custom of going on the air only when the staff had something to broadcast, but today an impeccable schedule is maintained five days a week from 1:00 till 10:00 PM. KTX has the advantage of being able to develop its own sales staff from the members of the Radio Advertising class who cajole the local shopkeepers into sponsoring programs.

One of the IBS' biggest members is Cornell's CRG, the station that wakes up at 6:30 AM every morning, while sleepy coeds still huddle under warm covers, "USS Cornapolis" goes on the air. The program, by and for members of the Navy unit, consists of corn, Cornellisms, and Navy, and is designed to help the unit men rise and shine. No listener has ever complained that it is not lively enough.

Normal in its other operations, CRG has one particularly outstanding show called "Infirm Request Show." Every day, a member of CRG's staff goes over to the infirmary and collects the day's list of musical requests which is then broadcast at 7:15 PM. Sometimes the request includes a personal appearance, and often CRG manages to oblige.

Eventually IBS has hopes of organizing international and overseas exchange broadcasts, so college students from all over the world may some day be able to exchange ideas over their own radio stations.

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